



A. Causes of the War

M: Militarization

A: Alliance

I: Imperialism

N: Nationalism

1. Nationalism- ties into imperialism and militarization, the idea that were better than the other;
 - Specifically the Slavic people of the Austrian-Hungarian empire wanted to break away from the empire
 - France wanted to reclaim Alsace-Lorraine which Germany had gained after the Franco-Prussian War in 1871
2. Secret Alliances- mutual defense treaties
 - Russia/Serbia
 - Russia/France
 - UK/France
 - Austria-Hungary/Germany
3. Militarization- European powers had begun an arms race, specifically between the UK Germany as both significantly increased their navies (Dreadnought), however, the military establishment had also gained more authority and sway in many European governments and were helping to shape policy, especially in Russia and Germany
 - Belgians put up a bigger fight than expected. Rough terrain. Jungle. Germany fears a 2 front war
 - WWI is the first total war. Everything is a target.
 - Battle of Verdun: Psychological offensive battle. Intentionally target French Civilians
 - German submarines were better than everyone else's
 - They suspended submarine warfare because they did not want the US to get involved in the war
 - America was upset because of the sinking in Lusitania and Sussex
 - If you don't have the public support, you can't advance a war effort
 - UK, France, Russia are Allied powers
 - Treaty of Versailles- A huge burden on Germany
 - The german army was not defeated, they were still fighting. They had never been invaded. Technically they did not lose the war. This led to WWII
 - Disarmament destroyed german cultural identity
 - The US came up with 14 points, but WWI was not fought in the US.
 - The british and France tell Wilson that they would not do the 14 points
 - The US will sign a separate peace treaty with Germany, the Senate refuses to sign the Versailles treaty due to the League of Nations

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Russia Drops Out!

Nov. 1917 The Communist Revolution was successful in overthrowing Czar Nicholas

Dec. 1917 the Germans-Russians agree to an armistice- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in Feb. 1918 is the official peace treaty

US entered the war 1917 and the war ended 1918

A. Causes of War/Lead Up To The War

1. Treaty of Versailles- The treaty was an albatross for Germany and the German people; Germany was not involved in the negotiations; the country was forced to accept responsibility for the entire war, both morally and economically. It's the reason why WWII happened. The goal of the British and the French was to punish the Germans
 - Initially Germany had to pay \$33 Billion. But paid \$2 Billion cause of the Dawes Plan
 - War guilt clause
 - Disarmament
2. Economic Turmoil
 - a. October 1929 Great Depression. 25% of Americans were unemployed; the US Govt. was far too small to actually do anything about the depression, also the banking system was far too decentralized and unregulated.
 - i. "Firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself-- nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror
 - ii. The Depression will hit Japan and Italy hard.
 - iii. WWI led to economic instability. There were totalitarian control in USSR, Germany, Italy, and Japan
 - b. WWI had a human (birth rate) and economic toll on the



industrialized world, specifically UK, France, and Germany
Lack of international trade hurts Germany's ability to export
which hurts their ability to pay reparations

D. The belief in laissez-faire economic policies (little govt oversight); allow the business community to conduct trade without government restrictions or tariffs; the faith in maintaining balanced national budgets and the gold standard

E. The Depression itself is never actually solved by Hoover or FDR, WWII is what brought an end to the Depression, until WWII the unemployment rate never fell below 14%

FDR creates programs that still affect us today like Social Security and Minimum Wage and the FDI

FDR wanted to use federal power to make private economy function more efficiently/fairly and reduce risk

Irony: Because FDR could not resolve the Depression he was given the latitude to implement all of these changes,

3. The Five Power Treaty: Agreed to in 1922 between the UK, US, Japan, Italy, France all agreed to limit the growth of their respective navies and limit the UK/US/Japan in their efforts to build up Pacific Ocean Naval Bases, the idea is to prevent a naval arms race. Germany has limits on their navy because Versailles
In 1934 the Japanese announce their intent to withdraw from the Treaty; in 1933 Hitler had begun to secretly rearm and by 1935 had publicly declared Germany's rearmament

4. Japan begins to expand in 1931, the Japanese were also suffering through an economic slowdown in the 30's, they believed that their economic survival was based on expanding their borders



- 1931 they invaded Manchuria to gain access to the raw materials in Manchuria
- The US threatens to cut off oil and steel trade if Japan continues this aggressive path
- The Japanese will leave the League of Nations in 1933 (so will Germany)
- Japan starts a war with China in 1937 and sign the Tripartite Treaty with Germany and Italy in 1940 (Axis Powers)
- The final straw occurs when Japan invades French Indochina (Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam)
- The US places sanctions on US steel and oil exports to Japan, the UK also ended the trade of rubber to Japan (**War was inevitable to the Japanese**)
- Japan sought a new path after this, the Japanese would invade: Dutch East-Indies (Indonesia) and British Malaya
The Japanese knew the US and its Western allies
- Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and then went on to take the Philippines, Guam, British Malaya, Dutch East-Indies and other islands

5. Neutrality Laws- Congress passed a series of laws from 1935-1939 to prevent the US from getting involved in the growing violence in Europe and Asia

Neutrality Laws prevent:

- The US from selling arms to belligerent nations
- Limits arm sales to nations that ARE NOT at war
- The US has the power to restrict citizens from traveling on belligerent ships or to belligerent nations
- Prohibited loans to belligerent nations and nations that were not repaying previous debts
- Forbids American shipping from carrying arms to belligerents
**The US is trying to prevent from being dragged into another war

6. Policy of Appeasement the US did not want to get involved with the trouble brewing in Europe so they were more than willing to



go along with the UK and France in regards to appeasing Hitler

- The UK and France know that the US will not go to war
- The UK and France wanted a strong Germany because of their fear of communism, they both wanted another army to counter the Soviets
- The UK and France did not want a war because they already went into a war
- 1938 Germany fulfills the Anschluss, the political union of Germany and Austria
- 1938 the Munich agreement is announced

7. Lend Lease Act- passed in March 1941, FDR attempted to make the US “the great arsenal of democracy”; Stalin said the US was committed to fighting the war with American money, American machines and Russian men

- Cash and carry- in 1939 FDR was able to get Congress to agree to amend the Neutrality Laws by securing an agreement to sell weapons to any country as long as the country paid cash and came to America to pick up the arms

Causes of the war: Versailles, Japanese, Policy of Appeasement

DEC. 7 1941 was the attack of Pearl Harbor

B. War Begins (World War II)

In 1939 the US Army ranked 39th in the world, the US still employed the use of cavalry and even used the cavalry to pull artillery

1. Germany invades Poland on September 1st 1939 beginning what is known as the “Phony War” in Europe; the UK and France declare war but no real action is taken
 - The Russians and the Germans made a secret alliance and agreed to partition Poland.



2. Germany invades the Low Countries (Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands) on May 10th on their way to France- June 22 of 1940 France surrenders
3. December 7th 1941 Pearl Harbor- Japan surprise attack at Pearl Harbor Naval Base
4. The Draft- September 16th 1940 the US implemented the first peacetime draft in our history, the Selective training and Service Act of 1940;
 - a. Men 21-45 had to register for the draft
 - b. Initially enlistment was for a 1 year term
 - c. The term will extend through the duration of the war
 - d. 50 Million men registered and 10 Million had been inducted
 - e. Note the year of its inception
 - **The french had fallen on June of 1940, the UK is being bombed and Japan continues to expand, it was well known that our military was unprepared for war
5. The US was fighting 2 wars, our strategy was based on 4 principles”
 - a. Focus on Germany first as the primary strategic enemy, their loss will lead to Japan’s loss; the American Pacific fleet was given the task of containing Japanese expansion; Japan was already occupied fighting the Chinese
 - b. Rely on strategic bombing, the civilian heartland, the production centers, limit the enemy’s capacity to wage war; not as worried about the enemy on the field
 - c. Keep ground force as small as possible, maintain a large industrial workforce, as much as possible
 - d. Delay the great amphibious invasion of Europe; attack Germany along its weakest points
 - **we started our war effort in North Africa and then move into Europe through Italy
 - **Russia would bear the brunt of the German attack

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D. War at Home

1. Fireside Chats- FDR started this practice the 2nd week of his presidency, originally used to comfort Americans dealing with the depression but leads to reassuring Americans and keeping up morale during WWII; it was estimated that nearly 8 out of 10 Americans listened to these “chats”
2. Office of War Information, they kept a tight lid on what was reported and how it was reported, pictures of dead or wounded US soldiers was not allowed; the OWI would not allow any information to be printed/broadcasted that would depict the US military efforts in a poor light
 - Newsreel- The govt. Used some of Hollywood’s biggest filmmakers, they worked for the OWI to inform the public about the war, it was a bi-weekly program and consisted of short films that would be shown before the main show.
 - When the United Mine Workers went on strike in 1943 they were portrayed as traitors in the newspapers, in June of 1943 the War Labor Disputes Act was passed which gave the president the right to take over any plant needed for the war effort that had ceased production due to a labor dispute.
 - Every was expected to sacrifice something to work.
3. Propaganda, the deliberate spread of facts or ideas to aid one’s cause or hinder another’s, there was a concerted effort to promote home front duties as essential to victory and comparable to a soldier’s duties on the front line; if you were an assembly line worker making war material, then you were a “production soldier”
4. Purchasing War Bonds- WWII will cost the US \$304B (the equivalent of \$3 Trillion today); the govt. Sold War Bonds, 25% of them were bought by ordinary citizens, the rest by corporation and financial institutions
 - a. How it worked: you purchase a \$25 War Bond for \$18.75; the government makes money up front to pay



for the war and 10 years later you can cash in your bond for \$25; it is an investment in your country and in your future

5. Rationing- shortages of rubber, metal and clothing were common;
 - a. The rationing and shortages of food were due to a variety of reasons
 - i. Transporting fresh foods was difficult due to rationing of gasoline and tired
 - ii. Processed and canned foods were reserved for soldiers overseas
 - iii. Importing certain foods like sugar was no longer a priority (transporting materials for soldiers took precedent and again there was rationing of oil/gas)
 - iv. The Office of Price Administration established a system of rationing to distribute foods fairly
 1. - Each American was issued ration books which contained removable stamps to redeem for sugar, meat, cooking oil, and canned goods
 2. A person could not buy the rationed item without the correct ration stamp; once your monthly issued supply was used up you were no longer able to purchase the rationed item
6. Recycling- The push to recycle became an issue, everyone, especially children were working on scrap metal drives, in one year alone Mobile, Alabama collected 22M pounds; kids could get into movies for free if they had 3-5 pounds of scrap metal; a kid could get a penny for every pound of scrap metal they collected.
7. Victory Gardens- Americans were asked to grow their own vegetables and fruits, it would allow the US to send more produce to the soldiers
 - a. Also useful for Americans since canned produce was



also rationed; Americans could stretch their ration coupons

- b. It was a sign of patriotism and at its peak it was estimated that there were 20 M gardens or basically 1 for every 7 people
 - c. School children planted gardens at their school and used the produce for school lunches; it demonstrates the level of public support, everyone was in support of the war, very different from today
8. Civil Defense- Americans volunteered to keep lookout for enemy planes, people who lived along the coast would dim or turn off their lights at night so that planes would not have a target if they were to attack
9. Internment Camps- The camps were created out of fear and suspicion that the Japanese American community would side with Japan, who could you trust, the Pearl Harbor Attack was a surprise attack
- a. On Feb 19th 1942 FDR signed Executive Order 9066, which gave the War Department (which no longer exists) the right to declare any area it deems as restricted military area “from which any or all persons may be excluded” the War Department declared California, Oregon, Washington, and Southern Arizona as such for Japanese America
 - b. Around 110,000 Japanese Americans living on the West Coast were placed into camps, 2/3rd were 1st generation and the rest were born in Japan
 - c. Japanese Treatment
 - i. Had to register with the War Relocation Authority for evacuation
 - ii. Families could only bring what they could carry
 - iii. Homes, businesses, possessions had to be sold or placed into the trust of friends/neighbors
 - iv. Families shared a single room, most without



plumbing or little heat

- v. Nutrition, education and health care were all poorly provided
- vi. Many Japanese continued life as best they could, organizing baseball teams, planting gardens and holding religious services
- vii. Largest camps Tule Lake, California 18,789; Poston, Arizona 17,814 and Gila River, Arizona 13,348
- viii. There were a total of 10 camps, placed in desolate locations; barbed wire and military police
- ix. In 1943 Japanese Americans could volunteer to serve in the military (originally excluded), they fought in Europe making up the 442nd Infantry Combat Team; one of the most highly decorated units of WWII
- x. Korematsu v. US; the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that military necessity overruled civil rights thus no civil rights were violated
- xi. Order 9066 was rescinded on January 2nd, 1945m in 1988 the US govt. Formally apologizes and paid each surviving internee \$20,000 as the govt. Acknowledges that the camps had been based on "race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership"

E. American Industry paves the path to victory

1. American Industry Provided

- a. Almost 2/3rd of ALL allied military equipment during the war
- b. This is due in part to us resources and remoteness from the battlefield as well as US modern techniques of mass production
- c. The government did not attempt to direct big



business, instead they allowed big business to plan and coordinate their efforts, the government explained what was needed and then asked business to provide the produce. In Germany it was the opposite, the military attempted to run the business/production side of the war

2. War Production Board was run by Sears-Roebuck director Donald Nelson and the Office of Production Management was run by automobile industrialist William Knudsen
 - a. The influence of men such as Nelson and Knudsen was invaluable; for example
 - i. The Liberty Ship, a cargo ship used during the war, went from taking 1.5M man hours and 355 days to build to 500K hours and 41 days to build by 1943
3. The Mass production of aircraft the real test
 - a. No one believed that it could actually be done, Henry Ford sent his general manager Charles Sorensen to check out the production facilities, they decided that they could a new plant with the intent to mass produce bombers in 1 plant.
 - b. By 1943 the plant was producing 10 bombers a day; in 1944 over 5000 bombers were produced for the year or 1 every 63 minutes; the line to produce the bomber started as 4 lines that merged into 2 lines that merged into 1 line from start to finish the line was more than 1 mile long
 - c. By 1944 each American aircraft worker produced more than twice his German counterpart and 4x the output of a Japanese worker; in 1944 alone the US built more planes than the Japanese did from 1939-1945
 - i. The Battle of Midway occurred in 1942, in the



3 years that followed the Japanese built 6 aircraft carriers and the US built 17

4. In the Midwest, Ford, Chrysler and General Motors went from
 - a. Producing 3.5 Million passenger cars in 1941 to only 139 between 1942-1945; this was due to their military production
 - b. The Ford company produced more army equipment than Italy did as a whole
 - c. By 1945 the Big 3 provided the US with almost 40% of the aviation equipment, 1/3rd of the machine guns, almost all tanks and trucks and accounted for nearly 20% of all military equipment
5. Workers Flourished
 - a. Workers went from needing government assistance in the 1930s to prospering due to massive profits for both business and labor
 - b. Wages rose and prices increased, 70% across the board, an indication that the economy was booming due to family earnings rising quickly, really only gas was strictly rationed
6. Workforce demographics change
 - a. Women made up of 57% of the workforce, by 1943 6M women had entered the workforce, and by the end of the war women within the workplace had risen by 50% since 1940
 - b. A total of 1M African Americans entered the workforce as well, 600,000 of which were women
7. Bracero program: 1942-64; originally known as the Emergency Farm Program
 - a. This is the US new immigration policy due to WWII, the US wants Mexicans to come to help harvest crops; Mexicans coming into the US to conduct temporary contract manual



- b. When Mexico is presented with this program they agree but get they get concessions for Mexican workers:
 - i. Like improved wages, housings, treatment, guaranteed hours regardless if its a good or bad harvest
 - ii. Employers have to pay for transportation to and fro
 - iii. To make sure all of these conditions are met Mexican inspectors would be allowed to come into the US and inspect working conditions on the farms
- c. Mexico could also blacklist regions of the US if they found that farmers in that region were abusing Mexican migrant workers; Texas was not allowed to take part in the Bracero Program initially because of their history of mistreatment of Mexican workers, the Texas state govt. Takes steps to remedy the situation and educate local farmers on Mexico's contributions toward the US
 - i. The program was supposed to be temporary
 - ii. The first year the US requested 90,000 workers which does affect Mexico's business; how the US convinces them because many of the workers are sending the money back home during the winter season and the money spent by consumers during this season increases and Mexican workers are exposed to new skills and ideas/views
 - iii. Long Term Effect
 - 1. Many Mexicans today are here because their grandfather was a Bracero
 - 2. Dependency on Mexican laborers by the agricultural sector



3. An immigration state of mind is established in the US, it is just part of growing up that at some point you will migrate to the US and work, maybe for 2 years, maybe for 20

The Civilian economies of both the Soviet Union and Great Britain shrank by nearly 1/3rd during war time. In the US civilian consumption expended by nearly 15%. The war forever banished the Depression and ignited the economic impetus that propelled the American economy

American civilian deaths attributable to enemy action in the 48 continental states was six- a young woman and five schoolchildren killed together by a crude Japanese fire bomb that exploded in south central Oregon on May 5, 1945; the Soviet Union had 16M civilian deaths, Germany 2.4M, UK 67K, Japan 580K, China 11.5M

Battles

US (Allies) Strategy

1. The Allied Strategy was to “Defeat Hitler First” Most American military resources were targeted for Europe not Japan
2. In the Pacific Theater, American military strategy called for an Island Hopping campaign, seizing islands closer and closer to Japan and using them as bases for air attacks on Japan, and cutting off Japanese supplies through submarine warfare
3. Germany hoped to defeat the Soviets quickly, gain control of Soviet oil fields and force Britain out of the war through a



bombing campaign (Battle of Britain) and submarine warfare before America's industrial and military strength could turn the tide

4. After Pearl Harbor, Japan invaded the Philippines and Indonesia and planned to invade Australia and Hawai'i; Its leaders hoped that America would then accept Japanese predominance in SE Asia and the Pacific, instead of conducting a bloody and costly war to reverse Japanese gains

Battle of El Alamein:

- Battle lasted 10 days between British and Italian forces
- End the North African Campaign
- Needed to control the Suez Canal
- In 1942 things were going bad, Operation Barbarossa was succeeding, U-Boats were hurting the British Navy in the Atlantic and Western Europe was in the hands of the German Army
- Fighting Germans in North Africa was important for Allied morale and for military logistics
- Huge blow for the German war effort
- Prevented Germans from gaining control of the Suez Canal and the oil fields
- It also prevented the Germans from having a front to attack the Soviets from the south
- Hitler order Rommel to not surrender, Rommel refused the order, in the end 25,000 Germans/Italians were killed/wounded and 6,000 British soldiers were killed/wounded

Battle of Stalingrad: August 1942 to February 1943

- The Nazis had invaded Russia in 1941, Stalingrad was important as an industrial and transportation center
- Hitler wanted Stalingrad for propaganda purposes, it was



named after Stalin and because controlling the city meant controlling the large oil fields that were nearby

- The Battle of Stalingrad- June 1941-July 1943; part of Operation Barbarossa, the Nazi Campaign to conquer the Soviet Union
 - Germany lost 750,000 men (killed, wounded or captured) 91,000 Germans were taken as POWs, only 6000 returned to Germany and the rest died in Russian labor camps
 - The Russians had 478,000 killed and 650,000 wounded
 - The US lost a total of 416,800 for the entire war
- Hitler would not allow his Field Marshal to surrender and thus lost more troops than he could spare
- It was considered the turning point on the Eastern Front
- It was the Soviet's first major victory and began the Soviet counter offensive
- Now Germany had to defend 2 fronts

D-Day: June 6th 1944, also known as Battle of Normandy, the battle does not end until August 1944

- The invasion of Northern France was known as Operation Overlord; 156,000 American, British and Canadian troops land on 5 separate beaches
- It was one of the largest amphibious military invasions
- Hitler had placed Rommel in charge of defending the "Atlantic Wall", the Germans had built defenses along a 2,400 Mile long defensive line, it was fortified with bunkers, beach and water obstacles and landmines
- General Eisenhower was given the task of planning and executing the amphibious invasion
- Germany was forced to retreat from France, thus liberating



France; liberation of W. Europe begins

- The Allies opened a 2nd front and Germany could not divert troops from the W. front to the E. front where the Russians were advancing
- The Allies have a base to launch an offensive against Germany
- Counters Soviet dominance on the continent

Battle of The Bulge: Dec. 16th

1944- Jan 16th 1945; The Ardennes which is part of SE Belgium that extends into France, Luxembourg and Germany

- **Largest battle on the Western front and the largest battle the US has ever been engaged in**
- **The battle began as a German offensive to drive a wedge between US and british forces, to break their line**
- **The German offensive failed but it was extremely costly for both sides**
- **The name comes from the fact that the German offensive failed but it was extremely costly for both sides**
- **The name comes from the fact that the German offensive created a “bulge” in the British American line, the bulge as 50 miles wide and 70 miles deep**
- **This is the end of the German army, the last major offensive by the Germans**
- **While the battle was bloody it could have been far worse if Hitler had pulled back his troops to take up defensive positions in Germany (400,000 troops committed to the attack)**
- **It was the first time Jet bombers were used in battle;**



Battle of Midway: June 4th 1942, Midway is a tiny island about 1000 miles west of Hawai'i

- It is a 4 day sea and air battle
- The Japanese were planning a surprise attack at Midway in an attempt to destroy the US Pacific Fleet and thus secure the safety of the Japanese homeland and use Midway as a base to defend against any future US naval attacks; the primary goal was to destroy the aircraft carriers that had survived the Pearl Harbor attack
- The US had broken Japan's naval code and had intercepted Japanese messages detailing the plan for the attack at Midway, the US was ready and waiting
- This battle served as a turning point for the US in the Pacific theater, the US begins their march toward the home island of Japan. Japan's naval fleet takes a hit they would not be able to recover from

Battle of Iwo Jima

- The US needed a base close to the home island of Japan to make a bombing campaign against Japan easier, it would allow escort fighter planes a base and allow damaged B-29 bombers a base if they were damaged
- The Japanese did not resist the Marine landings but instead moved inland and set up defensive positions, they had created an elaborate system underground tunnels (11 miles worth) which connected with caves and dugouts
- Iwo Jima was guarded by 23,000 Japanese soldiers, all were killed except for 1,083 that surrendered
- Capturing Iwo Jima allowed the US to have a naval and air force presence that could continually engage



- This was the only battle where more American casualties occurred than Japanese

Battle of Okinawa: April 1st- June

22nd 1945

- This battle was waged on land, air, and water
- Again, the Japanese had heavy defensive fortifications, tunnels, caves, and bunkers; the Japanese goal at Iwo Jima and Okinawa was to inflict heavy casualties, not to win
- The Allies wanted Okinawa for the same reason they wanted Iwo Jima, it was close to Japan and could be used as a base for the Navy and air force and a staging area to amass soldiers for a potential invasion

Tehran Conference: Nov. 28th- Dec. 1st 1943, Strategy meeting between FDR Churchill and Stalin

- There was an agreement that a 2nd front would be opened against the Nazis; this was a big objective for Stalin
- Operation Overlord was agreed to
- They agreed to recognize Iran's Independence but they deposed of Reza Pahlavi and replaced him with Reza Shah Pahlavi
- Nations that were aligned with the Nazis would be divided into territories and the Big 3 (UK, US and SU) would control/administer these territories
- The Curzon Line was agreed to: Stalin was given territory from the eastern part of Poland and Poland's



Yalta Conference: Feb. 4th-11th 1945; Yalta is in the Crimea

- This conference set the stage for the Cold War
- The US wanted to ensure that countries in Eastern and Central Europe would have free fair elections and democratic govts.
- Stalin wants it to be his sphere of influence
- FDR wants Russia to go to war against Japan
- Stalin agreed to join the war against Japan within 90 days of Germany's defeat
- Unconditional surrender of Germany
- Germany and Berlin would be divided into 4
- Stalin agreed to participate in the United Nations
- Declaration of Liberated Europe- The Big Three agreed that Eastern and Central Europe would have free elections to create governments that represent the will of the people.

Potsdam Conference: July 17th-August 2nd 1945, this meeting took place at Potsdam Germany

- The British and the Americans allowed Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary to deport millions of Germans, most of these Germans will end up in Western Germany
- Everything associated with Nazism was banned and a war crimes tribunal was created
- Truman will inform Stalin on July 24th that the US had successfully detonated an atomic bomb on July 16th



- The US, UK and China issued the Potsdam Declaration, which warned Japan to surrender or face “prompt and utter destruction”